

Leadership New Mexico, fostering future leaders in our state. Her volunteer efforts have touched economic development, women's programs and DWI activism.

JoAnn Carnahan—A hospice volunteer nominated by Elizabeth Carlin, a hospice patient. JoAnn takes Elizabeth for chemotherapy and stays with her for the 3–4 hours it takes for the treatments. JoAnn volunteers for a disabled man, doing his grocery shopping and laundry each week. At Christmas she helps with the gift bags for hospice patients.

Connie Martinez—A community liaison in the San Jose neighborhood of Albuquerque, she works hard on issues important to her neighbors and friends. Although she has experienced many personal losses in her life, she remains committed to making a positive difference. Connie is an advocate on environmental issues such as Superfund and Brownfields sites in the community, and social and economic concerns that affect the residents of San Jose. Connie is also an active volunteer at her parish.

Carolyn Monroe—A successful business woman who shares her skills on several boards concerned with the economic well-being and growth in our community. She understands the need and benefit of helping individuals and organizations succeed in the business community. Additionally she gives her time and financial support to many non-profit organizations.

Gloria Septien—One of only four women in the United States who owns a radio station, and one of only two Hispanic women who own a radio station. She has performed innumerable acts of kindness including food and toy drives for needy families and giving generously to charitable organizations, including the United Way.

Tamara Ward—A juvenile justice social worker who "walks the talk." Tamara has developed programs to help youth begin their rehabilitation and make a successful transition once they are out of the institution. She helps teens in the institution tell their stories through "Tales from the Inside", sharing why no one should follow in their footsteps. Tamara recruits positive role models to mentor the youth, providing a foundation to make positive changes in their lives.

These five excerpts from the nominations serve as examples of the women making history today and impacting the future in new Mexico. Please join me in honoring all of the worthy nominations: Julia Y. Seligman, Thema Honey, Aileen O'Bryan, Margarte Davidson (Posthumously), Maureen Sanders, Judie Framer, Gwen Poe, Fran Bradshaw, Cathy Davis, Anne Townsend, Penny Howard, Carolyn Chan, Melisse Barlow, Betty King, Marie Torrens, Paulina Slopek, Cathleen Tomlinson, Jan Johnson, Clorinda Romero, Virginia Eubanks, Vickie Terry, Marily Schaer and Sue Stearns.

WILDKITS SWIM AWAY WITH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Evanston Township High

School swim team for winning this year's Illinois State championship. After more than 40 long years, the State swimming championship title is back in Evanston. And after the many hours of hard work in the pool and countless laps, this team's dedication to winning was finally rewarded.

Led by Coach of the Year Kevin Auger, this year's outstanding and superbly talented Evanston Township High School swim team dominated the competition, broke state records, and swam away with the top prize. That was a proud moment for ETHS swimmers, coaches, faculty, and especially the parents of those remarkable student athletes. It was a very proud moment for all the residents of the city of Evanston and all Wildkit fans and alumni.

I urge all members to read the following article from the Evanston Review on ETHS' great achievement, and to take a minute and read the names of the championship swim team members listed below.

ETHS Team Members: Glen Anderson, Jamaal Applewhite, Peter Bloom, Nate Crocker, Brian Doyle, Justin Froelich, Taylor Hales, Alex Johnson, Alex Maass, Sean McCaffrey, Stuart Olsen, Terry Silkaitis, Stephen Skalinder, Will Vogel, Blake Wallace, Seth Weidman, and Brian Weiland.

ETHS Coaches: Kevin Auger, Jim Blickenstaff, Chuck Fargo, Joey Hailpern, and Aaron Melnick.

[From the Evanston Review, Mar. 1, 2001]

KITS SNAG FIRST STATE SWIM TITLE IN OVER 40 YEARS

(By Dennis Mahoney)

Evanston freshman Alex Johnson brought his family's favorite lawn ornament—a two-foot high plastic penguin—to the Illinois High School Association state swimming and diving finals Saturday at New Trier High School.

"It's always brought my family good luck, so I thought I'd bring it along," Johnson said.

But good luck isn't necessary at the state swim finals. The cream always rises to the top.

Led by the terrific trio of Terry Silkaitis, Sean McCaffrey and Blake Wallace, Evanston's swim team ascended to the top of the heap as the Wildkits captured their first state crown since 1960 Saturday.

Coach Kevin Auger's team left no doubt about the outcome with a sizzling performance during Friday's preliminary competition, then breezed to a team total of 139 points and easily outdistanced runner-up St. Charles East (110).

Silkaitis defended his individual championship in the 200-yard freestyle event, and also swam with the victorious 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams as part of a dominating performance by the Wildkits.

"Winning that last relay (in a school record 3:06.93) was just the icing on the cake for us," said Auger after his celebratory dip in the New Trier pool. "This just feels awesome. These guys worked so hard and it's just great to see this senior class accomplish this."

"For them to handle the pressure the way they did was just tremendous. Our big three swam virtually perfect Friday, and I told the guys we had to win yesterday to win it today."

"Even after the sectional I didn't think this was possible. It feels awesome, but it hasn't really sunk in yet," said Silkaitis. "It definitely was a nerve-racking weekend. But I knew what I had to do—and I did it."

The splendid senior almost pulled off a pair of individuals wins. He put together impressive back-to-back swims in the 200—with a prelim time of 1:38.42 and a finals time of 1:38.36, both personal bests—and won the title by almost two seconds.

And he responded to a big challenge in the 100 butterfly, where Champaign Central stud Dan Trupin was the odds-on favorite—until Silkaitis broke the state record of 49.54 with a time of 48.96 in the prelims.

That threw a scare into Trupin, who responded by re-setting the record at 48.69 Saturday. Silkaitis settled for second best at 49.34.

"It was nice to win the 200 again, especially because this is my senior year," Silkaitis said. "Today was definitely harder than in the prelims. I'd have said no way coming into the meet that I could go a couple of 1:38s, but after yesterday I thought I could do it again. I felt good today."

"Was I disappointed in the fly? Not at all. If you're going to lose, lose to the best. I knew Trupin would be there and I just gave it everything I could."

Also producing points for the new state champs—with legendary coach Dobbie Burton, who led the Wildkits to five state titles in the 1950s, watching from the stands—were McCaffrey (fourth in the 200 freestyle, second in the 100 freestyle), Wallace (sixth in the 50 and sixth in the 100), Glenn Anderson (11th in the 100 backstroke) and the medley relay unit of Anderson, Justin Froelich, Taylor Hales and Seth Weidmann that finished 12th.

Both of Evanston's relay triumphs turned out to be the fastest times in the country this season, Silkaitis, Weidmann, Wallace and McCaffrey beat out rival New Trier with a winning time of 1:24.90 that was actually slower than their prelim effort (1:24.72).

The same foursome finished with a flourish in the 400. It marked the first time the Wildkits have won that event in their history.

McCaffrey's decision to participate in shorter races this season (he placed eighth last year in the 500 free) paid off. He wasn't happy with another fourth place finish in the 200 but came on strong after that. His splits were a 20.5 on the shorter relay and an incredible 45.5 on the 400.

"It was obvious to me the 500 was going to be harder with all those fast young kids coming up," said the Wildkit senior. "The 100 proved to be a better race for me."

"I trained hard and lifted a lot of weights this year to prepare for this. I knew this would be a fast race, but I didn't know it would be this fast (a state record 44.40 by winner Matt Grevers of Lake Forest). I knew first place was out of the question there. I was just trying to get some team points."

So was Wallace, a junior who established himself as one of the state's top sprinters.

"My individual swims weren't what I wanted, but the relays were awesome!" he said. "We were so pumped up for that 400 even though we already had the meet won. We wanted the state record (3:05.84), but we couldn't quite get it."

"Yesterday I felt a lot of pressure to make it into the top six (in the 50 and 100). I did what I had to do. I think coach Auger deserves so much credit. He had us swimming just as hard in practice as we did in the meets. And the taper was right on."

Good luck may have had something to do with Evanston's title after all. The school was fortunate to land Auger, who also coaches the girls team, via the Wildkit Swim Organization club.

He landed the full-time club position two years before taking the helm at the high school and worked with some of the current Kits as pre-teens.

"I'm thankful the WSO reached out to a remote place like Canada to sell me on coming to this place," Auger said. "They wanted

to see the program get back to where it was when Dobbie was coaching.

"This was in the works when I first saw this group of kids. I'm a big believer in hard work getting you where you want to go, and my philosophy was we won't be out-worked. This year the whole team got behind that philosophy.

"I wouldn't have come here if I didn't believe the potential was here to win a state championship. All I did was convince them they were capable of doing it, and give them the work to back it up."

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
RUDOLPH V. MARSHALL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" V. Marshall, the founder and chairman of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition, who recently passed away at the age of 64.

Rudy Marshall proudly served this country for 30 years. He enlisted in the United States Navy. He worked at the Veterans' Hospital and the Alameda Naval Supply.

Rudy demonstrated his leadership abilities in the community. He was often involved with service projects, which helped to build and to strengthen the neighborhoods. He developed a trust and a bond with the people.

One of Rudy's greatest achievement was his founding and chairing of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition in 1979. He was a tireless advocate of the racial diversification of newspaper and broadcast facilities. Rudy utilized all legal avenues to ensure the fair treatment of African Americans and other minorities by the media.

He conducted workshops and seminars for young people to have the opportunity to experience broadcasting and media work first hand. Rudy provided mentors from the communications industry in hopes of fostering an interest for a career in journalism.

Rudy Marshall was a pioneer in bringing to the people's attention the demand for fair and diverse representation in the media industry. He had a deep passion for justice, fairness, and professionalism.

He has touched us all. Rudy Marshall, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and community leader will be deeply missed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL
SAVINGS ACCOUNT AVAIL-
ABILITY ACT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of medical savings accounts. As we begin the 107th Congress, I am sad to report that over 43 million Americans are without health insurance. One solution to help alleviate this problem is medical savings accounts (MSAs). Figures recently released by the Internal Revenue Service confirm that MSAs are

insuring the uninsured at an astounding rate. According to the IRS, since the program began in January of 1997, 32 percent of MSA purchasers were previously uninsured.

This success is in spite of restrictions placed on the pilot program, which was part of the bipartisan Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill that President Clinton signed into law in 1996. As of now, you can only get an MSA if you work for a company with 50 or fewer employees or if you are self-employed. However, many thousands of uninsured people have been purchasing MSA policies because MSAs are making health insurance affordable for the first time. In addition, MSAs allow for choice of doctor and put healthcare decisions in the hands of the individual, not a managed care administrator.

Today, following in the bipartisan spirit under which MSAs were originally created, Chairman THOMAS and I have introduced the Medical Savings Account Availability Act, with strong bipartisan support. This bill would repeal the 750,000 cap on taxpayer participation and make MSAs permanent. The legislation also expands the eligibility of MSAs to all individuals with a qualified high deductible plan.

Repealing the 750,000 cap and making MSAs permanent are key to continuing the success of MSAs. Last year, Congress extended MSAs for 2 years. Nevertheless, many insurers are reluctant to invest the capital to market MSAs if they will expire soon. The Medical Savings Account Availability Act would make MSAs permanent. Insurers have also been hesitant to offer MSAs because the cap restrictions limit the size of the market in which MSAs could be offered. Therefore, repealing the cap would encourage the mass marketing of MSAs and increase Americans' awareness of the benefits of MSAs.

It has been 8 years since the first Medical Savings Account bill was introduced with bipartisan support. MSAs have a proven track record of insuring the uninsured, giving individuals choice and control over their health care, making health care affordable by reducing the cost of premiums, and encouraging Americans to save for long-term health care expenses. With 43 million Americans vulnerable and uninsured, it's time to make MSAs available to everyone. I look forward to working with Chairman THOMAS, members of both parties, and others who want all consumers to be able to reap the benefits of MSAs. I urge my colleagues to join us and support the Medical Savings Account Availability Act. The 43 million uninsured Americans will thank you.

CELEBRATING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 180th anniversary of Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire, and to celebrate the shared democratic heritage of Greece and the United States.

On March 25, 1821, after more than 400 years of Ottoman Turk domination, Greece declared its independence and resumed its rightful place in the world as a beacon of democracy.

The people of Greece and the United States share a common bond in their commitment to democracy. Our Founding Fathers looked to the teachings of Greek philosophy in their struggle for freedom and democracy. And the American experience in turn inspired the Greek people to fight hard for their independence 180 years ago.

This bond between our two peoples stretches beyond the philosophy of democracy. The relationship between the U.S. and Greece has grown stronger and stronger through the years, and Greece remains today one of our most important allies.

Greece has made many valuable contributions to the United States and to the lives of all Americans. Greek-Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and I feel fortunate that my district in New York has benefited from the active participation of Greek-Americans in our community.

I am proud to stand today in commemoration of Greek independence and in recognition of the contributions Greece and Greek-Americans have made to our country.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 30th Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

On this important occasion, we should all remember the people who sacrificed their lives and others who endured immense suffering to achieve political self-determination. Despite this, and since achieving independence, the people and government of Bangladesh have played an increasing role in global peacekeeping and democratic consolidation.

Bangladesh is roughly the size of the State of Wisconsin but has a population estimated at roughly 130 million. It is bounded by India from the north, east and west and by the Bay of Bengal and Myanmar from the south. Bangladesh has a rich historical and cultural past as a consequence of the influx of varied races and nationalities, including the Dravidian, Indo-Aryan, Mongol-Mughul, Arab, Persian, Turkic, Dutch, French and the English cultures.

The area that is now Bangladesh was under Muslim rule for five and a half centuries, followed by British rule for another two centuries. It was, most recently, a province of Pakistan for 26 years. The people of Bangladesh achieved their Independence through a difficult nine month long war of liberation in 1971.

Since Independence, the people of Bangladesh have overcome formidable challenges, including rapid population growth and food shortages. The country is consolidating democratic principles at home, is a partner in global peacekeeping efforts, has vast amount of undeveloped gas resources, and has become an exporter of development best practices abroad.

The U.S.-Bangladesh bilateral relationship is deepening through trade and investment partnerships and an ongoing high-level official dialogue. President Clinton made a historic visit to Bangladesh in March 2000 and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a reciprocal visit in October of that year.